

Circuit International Incorporated

Statement of Service Performance

"What did we do?", When did we do it?"

For the year ended
31 March 2020

Description of the Entity's Outcomes

Through business and sustainable development, we seek to reduce extreme poverty within communities in north-eastern Myanmar. Through our **Grainsaver Bag programme** and our **Seed Bank Programme**, we seek to give subsistence farming families ways to make a living wage, so that they won't need to sell their children as child brides to China, or into prostitution in Thailand. Through our **Coffee for Opium Replacement programme**, we seek to give communities who are farming and addicted to opium, a viable alternative way to make a living.

Description and Quantification (to the extent practicable) of the Entity's Where Donations Went:	Actual This Year	Actual Last Year
Field Programmes	85%	83%
Promotion & Fundraising	6%	6%
Administration	9%	11%

New Hope Seed Banks:

A community based, very low interest, seed bank for subsistence farmers, offering protection them from loan sharks. The whole community takes the loan together so if one falls all share in the fall. Unity is the ultimate aim of the programme - it is our definition of community development. Further, interest paid accrues so that, in time, the community can start to run their own seed bank.

We have found during monitoring and evaluation that, in EVERY case, a sense of unity and community purpose has deepened through this programme. This has resulted in noticeable improvements to infrastructure, increased school attendance, improved health outcomes and better standard of living.. In the words of LCA Director, Sai Tun Sar - "Now they feel more unified and confident to solve their own problems and to stand on their own feet as a community".

This has been our most successful programme to date, and is becoming the backbone of Circuit's work in Myanmar.

Seed Bank Programmes

Village Tracts	6	5
Acres planted	207	185
Number of individuals assisted to keep them from poverty and free of debt to Local volunteers, including the individual programme managers, who happily volunteer their time, especially at the busiest times of planting and harvesting. Some volunteers are also used during the Monitoring and Evaluation of each Seed Banks programme.	929	897
	61	55

A note to readers/users of this report: Some of the previous year's statistics for Seed Banks programmes have been amended in the light of more reliable and realistic information.

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Grainsaver Bags:

A storage programme running in conjunction with the seed banks programme. It was an ambitious idea to introduce expensive new technology into Myanmar to enable us to store grain to improve the lives of subsistence farmers.

Our local entity, the Love Conquers All (LCA) Foundation, buys grain directly from farmers, thereby giving them a guaranteed income and passing the risk to us. Subsequent adverse conditions saw our farmers protected where others lost money. By protecting our store of grain now that conditions have improved we will be able to sell at up to 150% of previous prices thus providing extra funding for our charitable work.

Finally, this project has attracted the attention of business people. We are hoping that this will result in the sale of grain storage systems since we currently hold the rights to sell the machines and bags in-country.

This being a business project aimed at the Love Conquers All Foundation becoming self-sustaining at some point in the future there are no outcome statistics

Additional Output Measures:

Staff and volunteer involvement

Executive Director and Field Programmes Leader -partially sponsored/supported by Kiwis so they don't need to take a full salary from the charity, and more funds can go to the field programmes	2	2
Accountant -fulltime volunteer	1	1
Part time workers -on a basic living wage by agreement so that more funds can go to the field.	2	2
The comms strategist and graphic designer work on average 4 hours a week.	2	2
Fulltime staff in Myanmar - the LCA director and accountant -paid a local wage by agreement, not a high salary like some other INGOs pay their staff, so that more funds can be used for the programmes.	2	2
Monitoring and evaluation volunteers	2	2

The main learnings we have taken from this year have been:

1. to focus more on plant-based rather than animal-based projects as they do not carry as much risk from climatic conditions and disease
2. to focus more on community-owned projects rather than individually owned projects, as the community is able to keep the manager accountable for making progress towards self-sustainability after the initial startup investment is made.

Additional Information:

For more information on the outcomes and outputs of our programmes go to:

<https://www.circuitinternational.org/seed-banks/>
<https://www.circuitinternational.org/grain-saver-bags/>
<https://www.circuitinternational.org/cash-cows/>
<https://www.circuitinternational.org/coffee-for-opium/>